



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Embassy of the United States in Madrid • Research Unit

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Presidential Proclamation -- National Oceans Month, 2016

by The President Of The United States Of America

Covering more than 70 percent of the earth's surface, oceans have a profound impact on our way of life. Home to a great diversity of plant and animal species, their precious ecosystems provide food and energy that are integral to our survival. In bringing tourism and recreation to coastal areas, oceans are important to America's economy, and they help facilitate trade and transportation, give mobility to our Armed Forces, and preserve our Nation's maritime heritage. In observation of National Oceans Month, we recommit to good ocean stewardship and redouble our efforts to preserve the health and resilience of our vast oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

Jeopardizing marine populations and degrading oceanic habitats, pollution poses a significant risk to all of our interconnected oceans. Oceans and their nearby regions are also highly vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate -- a once-distant threat that is now very present and is affecting ecosystems and shoreline communities on every coast. Rising sea levels, coastal storms, and a growing risk of erosion and flooding are looming realities faced by seaside towns. It is critical that we take measures to safeguard our blue planet and heed the urgency to defend against

these mounting threats, particularly in the Arctic where the effects of a changing climate are already swiftly accelerating.

In collaboration with stakeholders; scientists; businesses; and State, tribal, and local partners, my Administration is continuing to implement the National Ocean Policy, a coordinated effort to support local communities, strengthen our ocean economy, and improve the health of our oceans. We are concentrating on key areas outlined in our 2016 Annual



Work Plan, including combatting illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing and monitoring significant changes in the acidity of our oceans. We are also focused on reducing the toxic effects of harmful algal blooms, which occur when algae grow too rapidly and threaten the safety of our food, drinking water, and air quality. Using the science-based roadmap laid out in the National Ocean Policy, we are dedicated to enhancing the economic and ecological sustainability of our oceans and advancing our knowledge of how they influence and are influenced by human activity.

This month, let us continue the work of ensuring the well-being of these grand bodies of water and the communities that depend on them. As we celebrate the immense beauty and power of our oceans, we are reminded of our shared responsibility to protect them -- now and for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2016 as National Oceans Month. I call upon Americans to take action to protect, conserve, and restore our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

World Oceans Day 2016

Press Statement by Secretary of State Kerry

June 8, 2016



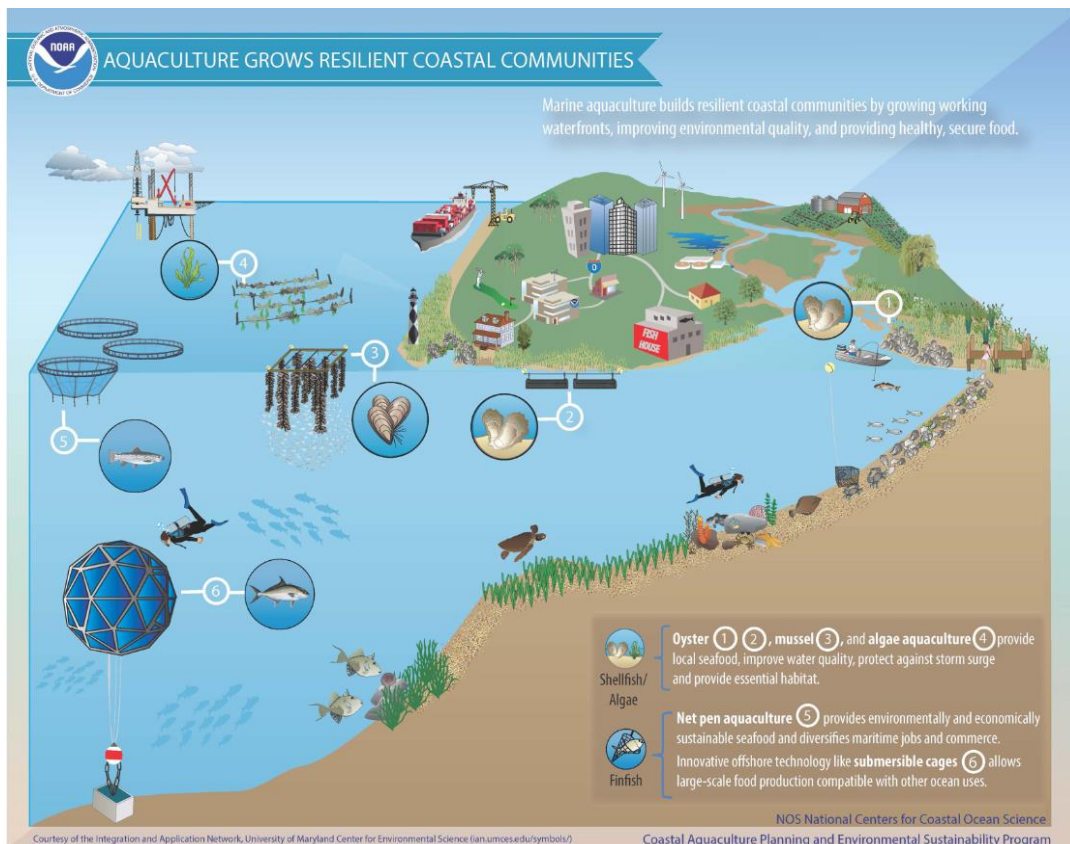
On World Oceans Day, we reflect on the challenges facing our ocean and what we must do to protect this life-sustaining resource for future generations. The fact is that the rich marine environment many of us have enjoyed throughout our lives is under extreme stress from

human activity. Without a shift in our approach, our children and grandchildren will inherit an ocean that is less healthy, less resilient and less able to provide for the world's population.

I have seen the change over the course of my lifetime alone. The ocean has many fewer pristine areas. It has too much trash, nutrient pollution, and carbon dioxide. We need to do more to maintain and restore healthy marine ecosystems, manage fish stocks on a sustainable basis, and establish more marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect the most vulnerable parts of the ocean, such as coral reefs. Despite the disturbing trends, I am hopeful we are approaching a turning point in our understanding of the role we must play in sustaining a healthy ocean.

In September, I will host the third "Our Ocean" conference to bring together some of the world's most creative thinkers and doers dedicated to marine protection. Since we first convened this conference in 2014, the global community has come together to pledge over 4 billion dollars for conservation and new commitments to protect almost 6 million square kilometers in MPAs. We've seen that the Our Ocean conference is a platform from which we can galvanize action from all over the world and from all parts of society. This year, I am especially dedicated to bringing the next generation of ocean leaders into this conversation to help drive forward fresh, ambitious ideas to save our ocean.

On World Oceans Day, I challenge all who love the ocean – and all who love the planet – to join us.



Remarks by Secretary of State Kerry on Oceans Protection and Environmental Issues

U.S. Department of State

June 1, 2016

“The fact is that the oceans are essential to your life. Life on Earth wouldn't exist without the oceans because half the oxygen that we get that we breathe is produced through the oceans.”

VIDEO - Nuestro océano, un futuro

ShareAmerica

8 de junio de 2016

El secretario de Estado de Estados Unidos John Kerry ama el océano. Kerry sabe que el océano está amenazado y lo que esto significa para las personas en todo el mundo. “Todos tenemos que actuar”, dijo. ¡Conoce las razones por las que se necesita la ayuda de todos y cómo puedes unirte ahora mismo al esfuerzo!



VIDEO – **“Did you know that about 95% of the ocean remains unexplored? There is only one world ocean.”** Celebrate Nacional Oceans Month 2016

7 ways to help preserve our oceans

ShareAmerica

June 3, 2016

Governments, nongovernmental groups and local residents can collaborate to manage and protect these areas and our oceans. Scientists estimate that to safeguard marine fish and plants, 30 percent of the world's oceans need to be protected. But less than 3 percent of our oceans are adequately protected.

Department of State Announces 2016 Fishackathon Winner

U.S. Department of State

June 8, 2016

The Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships at the U.S. Department of State announced on World Oceans Day that the global winner of the third annual Fishackathon was Akubic, from Taiwan. The team will receive a \$10,000 cash prize from Virgin Group for their solution, [Great Lakes Savior](#).

VIDEO - [President Obama Welcomes Leaders to CEM7 & First Mission Innovation Ministerial held in San Francisco on June 1-2, 2016](#)

U.S. President Barack Obama welcomes leaders to the seventh Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM7) and the first Mission Innovation Ministerial, held 1-2 June 2016 in San Francisco, California. He explains how important it is to accelerate the global transition to the clean energy economy of tomorrow and to speed clean energy deployment and development, to deliver on Paris climate agreement commitments.



The United States hosted the seventh Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM7) in San Francisco, California, on June 1–2, 2016. Energy ministers and other high-level delegates from 23 countries and the European Union announced new commitments to expand clean energy deployment and cut global carbon emissions while driving economic growth.

CEM members, representing 90 percent of global clean energy investment and 75 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, agreed to launch an enhanced effort – called “CEM 2.0” – to increase its effectiveness by creating an international secretariat to support CEM initiatives.

[DOE Announces \\$22 Million in Funding to Accelerate the Development of Plug-In Electric Vehicles and Use of Other Sustainable Transportation Technologies](#)

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
June 6, 2016

Today, the Energy Department (DOE) announced \$22 million to support research, development, and demonstration of innovative plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) and direct injection propane engine technologies, as well as community-based projects to accelerate the adoption of light, medium, and heavy duty vehicles that operate on fuels such as biodiesel, electricity, E85, hydrogen, natural gas, and propane.

REPORT - [Wildlife Wins: Obama Administration Successes in Protecting Our Nation's Species](#)

Council on Environmental Quality
May 20, 2016

The Obama Administration has taken many steps to ensure that our natural national treasures—our land, water and wildlife—are preserved for our children and grandchildren. These actions benefit the iconic wildlife that represent and define our

country, from the bison and the bald eagle, to the lesserknown yet critically important species that indicate ecosystem health like the Greater sage-grouse.

This analysis finds that under President Obama's leadership, we've achieved and recognized more victories for wildlife conservation than under any administration in history.

Fact Sheet - Climate Change and Clean Energy at the 2016 U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue

U.S. Department of State

June 8, 2016

Climate change is a pillar of the U.S.-China bilateral relationship. Over the past few years, expanded dialogue and cooperation have heralded a new era of climate leadership by the world's two largest economies and greenhouse gas emitters. President Obama and President Xi have issued a series of joint statements on climate change, including most recently in March 2016 on the two countries' respective intentions to sign the Paris Agreement and join as early as possible this year. U.S.-China climate leadership, a major contributor to the success of the December 2015 Paris Agreement, is catalyzing action to help the world transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future and is an enduring legacy of the U.S.-China partnership.

Secretary of State Kerry Remarks at the EcoPartnerships Event

U.S. Department of State

June 6, 2016

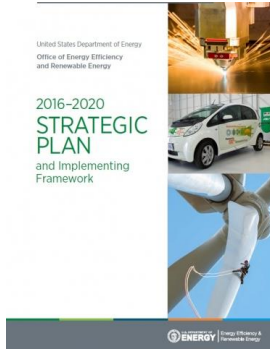
The China-U.S. EcoPartnerships is a key content of China-U.S. climate change cooperation. Since its implementation over the last seven years, it has achieved fruitful results and benefited many sides, including today's six pairs of new partners. The two sides have already forged 42 partnerships, among which 11 have smoothly graduated here. Let me express the heartwarming congratulations to all the new old partners and the graduates of this program, and sincere gratitude to government department enterprises and research agencies of the two countries.

U.S.-EU Energy Council

U.S. Department of State

May 4, 2016

The Energy Council, a forum on U.S.-EU energy priorities, promotes transparent, open and secure global energy markets; fosters policy and regulatory cooperation on efficient and sustainable energy use; and pursues joint research and development on clean energy and energy efficiency technologies.



2016-2020 Strategic Plan and Implementing Framework

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

This document is the blueprint for launching the nation's leadership in the global clean energy economy. It will guide the organization to build on decades of progress in powering our nation from clean, affordable and secure energy.

Energy Department Announces Partnership with CoStar Group, Inc. to Expand Visibility of Energy-Efficient Buildings in U.S. Real Estate Marketplace

Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

May 26, 2016

As part of the Obama Administration's effort to cut energy waste in the America's buildings, the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Initiative today announced a partnership with CoStar Group, Inc., a provider of data and intelligence solutions to commercial real estate professionals, to expand the visibility of energy-efficient buildings in U.S. property markets and promote the benefits of energy efficiency for building owners and occupants.

Fact Sheet - Growing Gardens in Urban Soils

U.S. Environment Agency

This fact sheet provides communities and individuals with general urban gardening information about:

- Common contaminants that can be found in urban soil.
- Ways to identify contaminants and reduce exposure.
- Improving soils and growing plants in mildly contaminated soil.
- Additional resources and technical assistance

[En español](#)

EPA Awards Environmental Education Grants in 26 States

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

May 31, 2016

The agency funded 35 grants from organizations in 26 states. Grants range from approximately \$36,000 to \$192,000, for a total of approximately \$3,306,600 million.

Top scientists find genetically engineered crops are safe to eat

By Christopher Connell

ShareAmerica – U.S. Department of State

May 26, 2016

Today 12 percent of the crops grown in the world come from plants that were genetically modified. It's done to protect plants from insects and herbicides and is widely used for soybeans, cotton, maize and canola. But farmers are also growing apples and potatoes that don't brown as quickly when cut; the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved their sale in 2015.

Will silk replace plastic and prevent food waste?

ShareAmerica – U.S. Department of State

May 26, 2016

Researchers at Tufts University discovered that a coating containing a silk protein, from silkworms, kept some produce from spoiling for longer periods and without refrigeration.

El cambio climático como nunca lo has visto

ShareAmerica

13 mayo 2016

Los expertos dicen que las temperaturas mundiales están aumentando vertiginosamente. Esta gráfica que ya circula por todas partes, muestra lo rápido que esto ocurre.

The Wonders of Wood Building

United States Department of Agriculture

June 3, 2016

Trees do plenty of work to sequester carbon on their own, but many forests are not as healthy as they should be due to fire suppression and climate change. This can leave trees vulnerable to large scale insect damage, fire or drought, and much of the carbon stored by forests is lost to the atmosphere as trees die.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Secretary Kerry to Host Our Ocean Conference in Washington, D.C. September 15-16, 2016

U.S. Department of State
May 31, 2016

U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry will host the third Our Ocean conference September 15-16, 2016, in Washington, DC. As in years past, Our Ocean 2016 will bring together heads of state, scientists, business leaders, NGOs, and others to tackle key issues including marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, and climate-related impacts on the ocean. This year's event, titled "Our Ocean, One Future," will build on international commitments to protect the ocean made at the previous two conferences, and will partner with Georgetown University to engage the next generation of global ocean leaders.

Solar Decathlon

Denver, Colorado – Fall 2017

The Energy Department on March 11 announced Denver, Colorado, as the host city for the next U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon competition in the fall of 2017. Denver won the bid to host this biennial event, in which student teams compete to design, build, and operate cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive solar-powered houses.

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Government.

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